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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2015

(1 to 9 June 2015, New York)

Contents

Number		*Page*
2015/7	Annual report of the Administrator of UNDP	2
2015/8	Evaluation (UNDP)	2
2015/9	Report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2014	4
2015/10	Annual report of the Executive Director of UNFPA	5
2015/11	Annual report on evaluation, 2014 (UNFPA)	5
2015/12	Annual report of the Executive Director of UNOPS	6
2015/13	Internal audit and oversight	6
2015/14	Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS	8
2015/15	Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2015	8

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2015/7
Annual report of the Administrator of UNDP

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Administrator on the first year of implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 (document DP/2015/11);

2. *Welcomes* the improved quality of the annual report of the Administrator and the overall progress made towards achieving strategic plan results in 2014;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the systematic reporting against the results framework of the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, including the new approach of linking results to resources and the introduction of the Development Report Card; and at the same time, encourages UNDP to further refine the Integrated Results and Resources Framework methodology and data analysis suggested in the following paragraph;

4. *Encourages* UNDP to continue in future reports to assess progress against the seven outcomes as well as challenges and lessons learned that may influence future programming;

5. *Encourages* UNDP to further analyse the data behind the results using information provided by relevant analytical tools of the organization, including, inter alia, evaluations and audits, to understand what drives or hinders performance and progress, and adjust programmes accordingly;

6. *Suggests* including Report Card tables also for tier three: Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency and in this regard urges UNDP to ensure good progress against organizational effectiveness indicators in 2015;

7. *Requests* UNDP to conduct a review of the monitoring, aggregation and reporting systems related to the Integrated Results and Resources Framework as a part of the midterm review of the Strategic Plan in order to increase its credibility and accountability;

8. *Encourages* UNDP to report more systematically on the impact of the structural reform 2014-2015;

9. *Commits* to continued engagement on ways to finance strategic plan implementation.

9 June 2015

2015/8
Evaluation (UNDP)

The Executive Board

With regard to the annual report on evaluation, 2014 (DP/2015/16) and the management commentaries thereto:

1. *Takes note* of the annual report on evaluation and urges UNDP to address in a timely manner the findings and recommendations, with a view towards improving programme results and impacts;

2. *Approves* the revised programme of work for 2015 of the Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP, recognizing there have been revisions to the plan as a result of changes in the budget;

3. *Requests* the Independent Evaluation Office to present a briefing on lessons learned on evaluation as well as an indicative costed programme of work for 2015 and 2016 at an informal meeting prior to the second regular session of 2015;

4. *Requests* the Independent Evaluation Office and UNDP management to provide to the Board at its second regular session of 2015 a strategy document on how it intends to revise its plans and procedures to improve the quality of decentralized evaluations;

5. *Requests* that in future annual reports, the Independent Evaluation Office presents a costed programme of work with more comprehensive information about the planned evaluations and other activities;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of comprehensive evaluations of the work of UNDP at the country level, and requests that the Independent Evaluation Office develop a practical strategy for improved evaluation coverage of country programmes at their conclusion to inform the preparation of subsequent country programmes, to be included in the annual costed programme of work for the consideration of the members of the Executive Board;

7. *Urges* the Independent Evaluation Office to ensure that its evaluations offer practical, cost-effective and impact-oriented recommendations that can be used to enhance the work of UNDP globally;

8. *Recognizes* the continuing efforts of UNDP in implementing evaluation management response actions and encourages UNDP to make strong progress on its implementation of follow-up actions of the management responses to thematic evaluations during 2015, taking fully into account the recommendations of the Independent Evaluation Office;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of maintaining an adequate funding level for this Office as a way of safeguarding its effectiveness and independence; and expects UNDP to ensure sufficient funding for the Independent Evaluation Office to fulfil its mandates;

With regard to the evaluation of the contribution of global and regional Human Development Reports to the public policy process (DP/2015/17) and the management response thereto (DP/2015/18):

10. *Takes note of* the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation of the contribution of global and regional Human Development Reports to the public policy process, and requests UNDP to take them fully into account in future global and regional human development reporting;

11. *Requests* UNDP to use the recommendations of the evaluation report both for the global and regional Human Development Reports and to report to the Executive Board, at its annual of 2016, on steps taken in this regard;

12. *Acknowledges* that the evaluation has affirmed that for a quarter century, the global Human Development Reports have made major contributions to the global development debate, and especially the important contribution of global Human Development Reports in mainstreaming of the concept of human development as an input to development policymaking;

13. *Encourages* UNDP to carry out a thorough review of the Human Development Index to reflect the changes in the global development landscape and the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in its method and structure, mindful of the importance of using where possible the most recent available national statistics in the computation of indices, as well as alignment with the goals, targets and indicators of the sustainable development goals;

With regard to the evaluation of the role of UNDP in supporting national achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (DP/2015/19) and the management response thereto (DP/2015/20):

14. *Takes note of* the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation of the role of UNDP in supporting national achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and requests UNDP to take them fully into account in its current work in support of countries on their fulfilment of the Goals, in preparation for supporting countries as the sustainable development goals are established and efforts are made to achieve them, and for the midterm review of the Strategic Plan in 2016;

15. *Acknowledges* that the evaluation concludes that UNDP has designed and rolled out a high-quality and well-timed set of diverse and complementary tools in support of Millennium Development Goal-related planning, monitoring and implementation;

16. *Acknowledges* the views expressed in the evaluation that UNDP is well positioned to approach the post-2015 era and help countries to achieve the sustainable development goals, while also recognizing that the emerging post-2015 development agenda is significantly more comprehensive and complex than the Millennium Development Goals and will require a longer-term repositioning of the United Nations development system, including UNDP.

9 June 2015

2015/9

Report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2014

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2014 (DP/2015/21) and the continued strong performance of UNCDF against set targets;
2. *Recognizes* the strategic positioning of the flexible capital mandate of UNCDF in developing innovative partnerships with public and private sector development partners, particularly linked to domestic resource mobilization, and notes the relevance of UNCDF expertise for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;
3. *Takes note* of the continuous steady growth in UNCDF non-core resources and partnerships, which contribute to the achievement of results by UNCDF primarily with the least developed countries (LDCs);
4. *Expresses concern* that regular resources, decreasing slightly in 2014, remain far short of the $25 million threshold required to sustain UNCDF programming in 40 LDCs; and notes with concern that as a result, the number of LDCs supported by UNCDF dropped from 33 in 2013 to 31 in 2014;
5. *Recognizes* that a critical mass of core resources is required, in accordance with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, to ensure that UNCDF maintains its innovation space; so the Fund secures a solid and predictable base from which to leverage additional resources and drive follow on investment including through domestic resource mobilization for local development; and mindful of the importance of guaranteeing presence in up to 40 LDCs according to the 2014-2017 Strategic Framework; and against this background calls on Member States in a position to do so to contribute to UNCDF regular resources to ensure that it can reach the target of $25 million per year in annual regular resources.

9 June 2015

2015/10
Annual report of the Executive Director of UNFPA

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the documents that make up the report of the Executive Director for 2015: DP/FPA/2015/5 (Part I, Part I/Add.1 and Part II);

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the systematic reporting against the results framework of the strategic plan, 2014-2017, and the progress achieved;

3. *Acknowledges* and *welcomes* the efforts undertaken by UNFPA to implement the revised strategic direction, including the enhanced engagement in humanitarian settings, and the new differentiated business model;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to make further improvements in the next annual report by referring to the theories of change document accompanying the strategic plan, making use of evaluation findings and including more details on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities for development, lessons learned and actions taken in response;

5. *Recognizes* the need for increased support for effective positioning of UNFPA to augment further efforts to complete the unfinished Millennium Development Goal 5 targets A and B, and to accelerate investments in young people, including in adolescent girls and boys, in order to enable countries to realize the demographic dividend, in line with their national priorities, and *requests* the Executive Director to make a presentation on UNFPA work on the demographic dividend in the context of the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017.

24 June 2015

2015/11
Annual report on evaluation (UNFPA)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Evaluation Office (DP/FPA/2015/6) and the evaluation workplan for 2015, including amendments to the transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2014-2015, as well as the management response;

2. *Reaffirms* the central role played by the evaluation function in UNFPA, the relevance of the principles set out in the revised evaluation policy (DP/FPA/2013/5) and the importance of their implementation within the organization;

3. *Encourages* UNFPA to take action to further strengthen the evaluation function at UNFPA by implementing the recommendations presented in table 3 of the evaluation report;

4. *Takes note* of the challenges in the field of decentralized evaluations, and *stresses* the need to continue to strengthen capacity for decentralized monitoring and evaluation;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of adequate resource allocation, including from other resources for non-core funded programmes, to support a strong, independent evaluation function, and *encourages* UNFPA to ensure that the level of human and financial resources is commensurate with the appropriate level of evaluation coverage and with the necessary alignment with the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017, and its business model;

6. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the Evaluation Office to disseminate evaluation findings for institutional and programmatic strengthening;

7. *Requests* the Director of the Evaluation Office to report in 2016 on progress in addressing key issues and challenges in evaluation in the Director's annual report to the Executive Board.

9 June 2015

2015/12
Annual report of the Executive Director of UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the significant contributions made by UNOPS to the operational results of the United Nations and its partners in 2014;
2. *Takes note* of the efforts made to enhance and report on UNOPS contributions to partners' sustainable results, including the pursuit of best practices and recognized standards;
3. *Further takes note* of the overall progress made in implementing the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, which has established a strong foundations for UNOPS to support Member States in implementing the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda;
4. *Encourages* the Executive Director to proceed with the Audit Advisory Committee in accordance with established best practices of UNDP and UNFPA, as well as previous decisions by the Executive Board on this matter;
5. *Recalls* Executive Board decisions 2008/35 and 2009/4 and, in order to promote greater efficiency in UNOPS operations, *requests* the Executive Director to consult with the Secretary-General on the future role of the Policy Advisory Committee vis-à-vis that of the Executive Board regarding oversight and policy guidance to UNOPS, recognizing considerable changes since 2009 to the governance structure of UNOPS and the evolution of its role and mandate;
6. *Encourages* UNOPS to further explore the potential of facilitating partnerships with like-minded actors including from the private sector, placing firm emphasis on social impact investments in the UNOPS mandated areas such as infrastructure development and project management, and with full respect of national ownership.

9 June 2015

2015/13
Internal audit and oversight

The Executive Board

Welcomes the progress of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS in addressing audit-related management issues in 2014;

Notes with appreciation efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations from previous reports;

Notes with concern the number of recurring recommendations and requests to the respective secretariats of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to step up their efforts to achieve the timely, full, complete and sustained implementation of all outstanding and new audit recommendations;

Requests the internal audit and investigation offices of the three organizations to provide timely information to the Executive Board when they face challenges in discharging their oversight responsibilities or fulfilling their workplans;

Further requests the internal audit and investigation offices to include in future annual reports:

(a) an opinion, based on the scope of work undertaken, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the organizations' framework of governance, risk management and control;

(b) a concise summary of work and the criteria that support the opinion;

(c) a statement of conformance with the internal audit standards being adhered to;

(d) a view on whether the resourcing of their function is appropriate, sufficient and effectively deployed to achieve the desired internal audit coverage;

Welcomes the inclusion of information regarding losses recovered following substantiated investigations, and *encourages* the UNDP and UNFPA secretariats to continue to strengthen their efforts to ensure that such funds are recovered to the organizations and that finalized cases are promptly followed up;

Encourages the organizations jointly to review their recruitment procedures for posts in the internal audit and investigation offices and to report to the Executive Board on measures taken to reduce the long vacancies;

With regard to UNDP:

Takes note of the report on internal audit and investigations (DP/2015/22), its annexes and the management response;

Expresses its continuing support for strengthening the internal audit and investigation functions of UNDP;

Requests that UNDP provide information on follow-up to investigations finalized in previous reporting years and as to losses recovered for such years, as well as continue to provide details of follow-up to, and losses recovered for, investigations concluded in the specific reporting year covered by the report;

Also requests that the Office of Audit and Investigations provide a thorough presentation of their organizational risk assessment in future annual reports to the Executive Board.

Takes note of the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee and the management response thereto.

With regard to UNFPA:

Takes note of the present report (DP/FPA/2015/7);

Expresses its continuing support for the strengthening of the audit and investigation functions at UNFPA, and for the provision of sufficient resources to discharge their mandate;

Acknowledges and *supports* the engagement of the Office of Audit and Investigation Services in joint oversight activities;

Recalls decision 2015/5 of the Executive Board, where UNFPA was requested to inform the Executive Board of the organization's plans to improve internal audit coverage, and *requests* UNFPA to consider these plans, including with regard to strengthening investigation capacity, in the revised integrated budget to be presented to the Executive Board in 2016;

Takes note of the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee (DP/FPA/2015/7/Add.1) and the management response thereto and to the present report.

With regard to UNOPS:

Takes note of the annual report of the Internal Audit and Investigations Group for 2014 (DP/OPS/2015/3) and the management response thereto;

Take note of the progress made in implementation of audit recommendations, including those that are more than 18 months old;

20. *Take note* of the annual report of the Strategy and Audit Advisory Committee for 2014 (in line with Executive Board decision 2008/37).

9 June 2015

2015/14
Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS (DP/2015/23, DP/FPA/2015/8 and DP/OPS/2015/4);
2. *Notes with appreciation* the vital role played by the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to foster a culture of ethics, integrity and accountability in their respective organizations, and *urges* the offices to continue enhancing that culture.
3. *Commends* the respective managements of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS for their leadership and continued support and commitment to the work of the ethics offices, and *urges* management to continue its efforts to allocate sufficient resources to the ethics function;
4. *Recalls* decision 2011/24, and *commends* the ethics offices for their recommendations to management to strengthen the organizational culture of integrity; *encourages* the offices to continue to provide management with advice and recommendations in this regard, which may include recommendations for improving internal legal and accountability frameworks to address misconduct and protection of whistle-blowers; and *urges* the respective managements of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to work together with the ethics offices in this regard and to implement their recommendations, as appropriate.

9 June 2015

2015/15
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2015

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2015, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Adopted the agenda and workplan for its annual session 2015 (DP/2015/L.2);

Adopted the report of the first regular session 2015 (DP/2015/9);

Approved the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2015;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining session of the Executive Board in 2015:

Second regular session 2015: 1 August to 4 September 2015.

Took no decision on the venue of the annual sessions of the Executive Board.

UNDP segment

Item 2
Annual report of the Administrator

Adopted decision 2015/7 on the annual report of the Administrator: performance and results for 2014 (DP/2015/11);

Took note of the report of UNDP on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2014 (DP/2015/11/Add.1);

Took note of the statistical annex (DP/2015/11/Add.2).

Item 3
Gender in UNDP

Took no decision on the annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2014-2017 (DP/2015/12).

Item 4
Human Development Report

Took note of the oral report on consultations regarding the 2016 Human Development Report in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/264.

Item 5
UNDP country programmes and related matters

Withdrew the country programme document for Uganda (DP/DCP/UGA/3).

Took note of:

(a) the first six-month extension of the country programme for Ethiopia from 1 January to 30 June 2016 ;

(b) the first one-year extension of the country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016;

(c) the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mozambique and Yemen from 1 January to 31 December 2016;

(d) the first one-year extension of the country programme for Kyrgyzstan from 1 January to 31 December 2017 (DP/2015/13).

Reviewed and approved, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/7, the country programme documents for Armenia (DP/DCP/ARM/3) and Turkmenistan (DP/DCP/TKM/2).

Item 6
Evaluation (UNDP)

The draft decision on the revised UNDP evaluation policy was withdrawn.

Adopted decision 2015/8 on the 2014 annual report on evaluation (DP/2015/16), the report on the evaluation of the contribution of global and regional Human Development Reports to the public policy process (DP/2015/17) and the management response (DP/2015/18), and the report on the evaluation of the role of UNDP in supporting national achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (DP/2015/19) and the management response (DP/2015/20).

Item 7
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2015/9 on the report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2014.

UNFPA segment

Item 8
Annual report of the Executive Director

Decided to adopt the decision on the annual report of the Executive Director at a special session, held on Wednesday, 24 June 2015, from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Adopted decision 2015/10 on the Report of the Executive Director: Progress in implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017 (DP/FPA/2015/5 Part I);

Took note of the Statistical and financial review, 2014 (DP/FPA/2015/5 Part I/Add.1);

Took note of the UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2014 (DP/FPA/2015/5 Part II).

Item 9
Evaluation (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2015/11 on the annual report on evaluation (DP/FPA/2015/6).

Item 10
UNFPA country programmes and related matters

Took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Somalia (2016), United Republic of Tanzania (1 July 2015–30 June 2016) and Yemen (2016) (DP/FPA/2015/9);

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon (2016), the fourth one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic (2015) and the two-year extension of the country programme for Papua New Guinea (2016-2017) (DP/FPA/2015/9);

Reviewed and approved, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/7, the country programme documents for Armenia (DP/FPA/CPD/ARM/3); Turkmenistan (DP/FPA/CPD/TKM/4) and Uganda (DP/FPA/CPD/UGA/8).

UNOPS segment

Item 11
Annual report of the Executive Director

Adopted decision 2015/12 on the annual report of the Executive Director (DP/OPS/2015/2).

Joint segment

Item 12

Internal audit and oversight

Adopted decision 2015/13 on the: (a) UNDP report on internal audit and investigations (DP/2015/22); (b) report of the Director, Division for Oversight Services on UNFPA internal audit and oversight activities in 2014 (DP/FPA/2015/7); and (c) activity report for 2014 of the Internal Audit and Investigations Group of UNOPS (DP/OPS/2015/3).

Item 13
Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

Adopted decision 2015/14 on the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP (DP/2015/23), UNFPA (DP/FPA/2015/8) and UNOPS (DP/OPS/2015/4)

Item 14
Other matters

Held the following briefings and consultations:

UNDP

Side event "Restore or reform? Strategic support to core government functions in the aftermath of crisis"

UNV side event - State of the World's Volunteerism Report

Joint UNDP and Mission of Finland side event "UNDP support to dialogue and internal mediation processes in the Middle East and North Africa region"

Side event on the UNDP Gender Equality Seal

UNOPS

Informal consultation

UNFPA

Briefing on the demographic dividend

Briefing on the UNFPA humanitarian preparedness and response in Northeast Nigeria: supporting women and girls rescued from Boko Haram

Informal consultation on the new UNFPA resource mobilization strategy

TENTATIVE WORKPLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2015
(1 - 4 September 2015, New York)

Day/date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Tuesday, 1 September	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session • Adoption of the report of the annual session 2015 **UNDP segment** STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE, INCLUDING ITEMS 2 and 3
		2	UNDP: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS • Annual review of the financial situation, 2014 • Detailed information relating to the annual review of the financial situation, 2013
		3	FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO UNDP • Status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its funds and programmes for 2015 and onwards
	3 – 5 p.m.		**UNDP segment (cont'd)**
		2	UNDP: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
		3	FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO UNDP
	5 – 6 p.m.		Presentation of the Revised Guidelines and Procedures for Country Offices and Headquarters Units in UNDP engagement in sector budget support and pooled funding
Wednesday, 2 September	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNDP segment**
		4	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
	3 – 4 p.m.	4	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS (cont'd)
	4 - 5 p.m.	5	EVALUATION • Evaluation of the UNDP contribution to gender equality and management response
	5 – 6 p.m.		Presentation of the synthesis report on the joint evaluations of UNDP environmental programming and management response
Thursday, 3 September	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNFPA segment**
			STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		6	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS • UNFPA resource mobilization strategy

		7	FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO UNFPA • Report on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2015 and future years
	3 – 5:30 p.m.	8	EVALUATION • UNFPA quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2016-2019
		9	UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
	5:30 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Friday, 4 September	10 – 11 a.m.	9	**UNFPA segment (cont'd)** UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS (cont'd)
	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	10	**UNOPS segment** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • UNOPS biennial budget estimates, 2016-2017 • Report of the ACABQ on the UNOPS biennial budget estimates, 2016-2017 • Annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations, 2014
	3 – 5 p.m.	11	**Joint segment** FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS • Report on joint procurement activities (decision 2012/25)
		12	FOLLOW-UP TO UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETING • Report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
		13	FIELD VISITS • Report on the joint field visit to Jordan • Guidelines for the field visits of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and for joint field visits with UNICEF/WFP AND UN-Women
	5 – 6 p.m.	14	OTHER MATTERS • Address by the Chairperson of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS/ UN-Women Staff Council • Adoption of pending decisions
		1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Draft annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2016 • Tentative workplan for the first regular session 2016